15th February 1955]

11. Some of Kavarathy islanders who had been to Amin Divi island to fetch rice from that island arrived here back yesterday. I gathered information from them that an odam had gone to that island from Agathi with a patient for treatment, that the Agathi islanders told them that after my departure from Agathi, dysentery again started spreading in Agathi which gained 'momentum' during the rainy season and that there were about 70 deaths from that disease, mostly children below 10 years of age. They also said according to information received, that the epidemic has again more or less subsided. These informations may be true or exaggerated. Any way, it is not possible to sail to Agathi island at least till the middle of November making headway against the prevailing wind blowing in the opposite direction.

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 723 asked by Sri V. Gopala Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 15th February 1955, page 523 supra.]

Rules of constitution and working of the Half-yearly District Irrigation Conference.

The District Conferences should be held twice a year in February and August every year subject to such modification in the date and month as might be found necessary in individual cases. In districts where there are two or more Executive Engineers (e.g., Tanjore), two conferences a year should be held for each of the Public Works Department divisions. When one Executive Engineer looks after more than one district, two conferences a year should be held in each of the districts. One of the two conferences may be held in the off-season in summer and the other in the middle of cultivation season as considered desirable so that suggestions regarding irrigation matters may be put into execution in the following cultivation season or investigated at leisure in the off-season as the case may be.

2. The Executive Engineer concerned will be the secretary and convenor and the Collector will preside over the conference.

3. The conference should be attended by Revenue Divisional Officers, Subdivisional Officers, District Agricultural Officer, M.L.As. and M.L.Cs. of the district (if they are willing) and six representatives of the ryots selected from different areas in the district or division, as the case may be, by the Collector in consultation with the M.L.As. and M.L.Cs. of the area and the Executive Engineer concerned.

4. The conference will sit from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., unless the agenda is finished earlier, and consider the grievances of the ryots in regard to irrigation matters generally and any other matter

[15th February 1955

referred to it and make specific recommendations. Generally the conference would deal with matters of general policy relating to irrigation and drainage.

5. All representations intended to be examined during the conference should be made in writing to the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department (Secretary of the Conference) and such representations made two months in advance of the date of the conference would be included in the agenda for the meeting. The Executive Engineer or the Collector may at his discretion include in the agenda for a meeting individual representations without prior notice, if necessary.

6. The subjects to be considered at the conference should be predigested by joint investigation by Public Works Department, Revenue, Agriculture and other departments concerned. The Executive Engineer concerned should prepare the agenda for the conference, subject to the approval of the Collector, and communicate it to all members concerned and departmental heads in the district at least a month before the date of the proposed conference so as to give time to all members especially the non-official members to study the question involved. Local officers like Revenue Divisional Officers, Agricultural Demonstrators, Public Works Department Supervisors, etc., may hold informal conferences with prominent ryots where necessary during the process of predigestion of the proposals to be considered by the District Irrigation Conference. This would enable the local ryots to represent their views to the Government officials and also enable the Government officials in turn to explain the details of any new proposed schemes to the ryots.

7. Separate self-contained references on such of the resolutions passed at the conference as call for orders of Government should be submitted by the Executive Engineer through the Collector, the Chief Engineer (Irrigation), the Board of Revenue and the Agricultural and Irrigation Development Board and should reach the Government along with the recommendations of the Chief Engineer and the Boards.

Appendix IV.

[Vide item III (2) on page 555 supra.]

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MADRAS PLANTATIONS AGRICULTURAL INCOME-TAX BILL, 1954 (L.A. BILL No. 30 OF 1954).

To

The Honourable the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
MADRAS.

The Select Committee appointed to consider the Madras Plantations Agricultural Income-tax Bill, 1954 (L.A. Bill No. 30 of 1954), has the honour to make the following report.